

After several years of processing, the William H. Natcher Political Collection will open to the public Friday, October 1, 2004, at the Kentucky Library and Museum on the campus of Western Kentucky University. The collection will display volumes of correspondences, photographs, awards and memorabilia, accumulated throughout Congressman Natcher's distinguished life and career.

I would like to extend the collective gratitude of the U.S. House of Representatives to the Natcher Family and Western Kentucky University for assembling a collection that will allow future generations to appreciate and learn from Congressman Natcher's exceptional life.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO PETE LARSON

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 23, 2004*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise to mourn the death of Pete Larson, who was killed in an all-terrain-vehicle accident while conducting land health assessments for the Bureau of Land Management near Grand Junction, Colorado. Pete was an active, enthusiastic individual, who loved his job and was a loyal friend to Colorado's Western Slope. I am honored to stand here today before this body of Congress and this nation to celebrate his life and recognize his many accomplishments.

Pete married Rita Graham in 1966, and they raised their family in Grand Junction, where Pete was very active in the community. He taught science for twenty-nine years at Grand Junction High School where his natural curiosity and wide-ranging interests allowed him to connect with students of every personality. His students recall his enthusiasm for explaining chemistry, physics, biology and botany to generations of Grand Junction students.

Pete was always ready to help a friend or a stranger and willingly shared his knowledge of the environment. He knew its plants and its animal inhabitants, its soils and its water, its weather and its moods. Pete's love of the land and the people of Mesa County led him to continue his service to others as he worked to combat tamarisk while working at the Colorado National Monument. He was instrumental in creating the Tamarisk Coalition and served on their board of directors. After ten years of dedication to the National Park Service, Pete took a job as a biological technician for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) field office in Grand Junction where he worked for three years before his unfortunate accident on August 2, 2004.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to call the attention of this body of Congress to the life of Pete Larson. He always had a bright outlook on life and his curiosity and love of learning inspired those who knew him. The Grand Junction community and the State of Colorado are a better place as the result of his many contributions. Pete was a great man who dedicated his life to helping others, and I know that he will be sorely missed. My thoughts and prayers go out to his wife Rita, his two daughters Kristen Kasel and Kari Larson, and his son Tor Larson at this difficult time of bereavement.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE STOUGHTON HOSPITAL

**HON. TAMMY BALDWIN**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 23, 2004*

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 100th anniversary of the Stoughton Hospital located in Stoughton, Wisconsin. Since 1904, Stoughton Hospital has provided high quality individual healthcare to the people of Stoughton and the surrounding communities.

Stoughton Hospital was founded by Dr. Michael Iverson in 1904 as the Stoughton Surgical Hospital. The hospital was purchased by the city in 1924 upon Dr. Iverson's retirement. Over the years, the hospital has seen many renovations and improvements, but Stoughton Hospital's core values have remained the same. The Norwegian born and educated Dr. Iverson was committed to a small hospital that offered personalized care to each of its patients. Today, a century later, Stoughton Hospital is still firmly committed to that same philosophy.

The hospital offers a variety of services to the community in its facility that include an urgent care complex, intensive care unit, medical and surgical inpatient units and both outpatient surgery and rehabilitation facilities. At Stoughton Hospital, state-of-the-art care is provided for each patient. In addition to providing care for community members, the hospital also meets the needs of the community by offering community education courses and service programs.

Today, I proudly join the Stoughton Hospital staff and volunteers, residents of Stoughton and the surrounding communities in celebrating Stoughton Hospital's 100 years of quality healthcare and personalized service.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 23, 2004*

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, on September 13, 2004, and September 21, 2004, I was unavoidably absent from this Chamber. I would like the RECORD to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 441, 442, 443, 457, 458, 459, and 460.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO BOB NERO

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 23, 2004*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise to mourn the passing of Bob Nero from my home state of Colorado. Bob, who recently retired as the head of Public Relations for the University of Colorado system, passed away at the age of fifty-nine after battling pancreatic cancer. He was known for his fun-loving nature, excellent wit,

and abiding sense of professionalism. As his family and friends mourn this loss, I believe it is appropriate to remember Bob and pay tribute to him for his contributions to the state of Colorado.

Bob worked for the University of Colorado for nineteen years, most recently as the Assistant Vice President of Institutional Relations. He was an effective and professional communicator who passionately worked to build an understanding of the University of Colorado's mission and its educational contributions to the state.

However, Bob's legacy reaches far beyond the University of Colorado. He was a multi-talented individual who had a diverse career working as a consultant to the cast of *The Lives of the Rich and Famous* in Europe; as an assistant editor in the reference book division of Thomas Y. Crowell Publishing Company; and as the West Coast Bureau chief for the New York Herald. Earlier in his career, Bob served as an oral historian at the American Film Institute and was the Director of Communications at UCLA's Graduate School of Management.

Mr. Speaker, we are all terribly saddened by the loss of Bob Nero, though take comfort in the knowledge that our grief is overshadowed only by the legacy of dedication that Bob has left with us. I am honored to pay tribute to such a devoted public servant, one who has given many years in service to the state of Colorado. I know that many throughout our state who had the chance to benefit from his experience and dedication will miss Bob Nero. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family during this time of bereavement.

#### TRIBUTE TO REPRESENTATIVE LINDY BOGGS

**HON. JOHN B. LARSON**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 23, 2004*

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the former Representative and Ambassador Corrine Claiborne "Lindy" Boggs on the acceptance of her portrait into the House collection. While I did not have the pleasure of serving with Lindy Boggs, I am a great admirer of hers. Her Southern charm is infamous. Her legislative and political knowledge is vast. As a champion of education, women's issues, and civil rights, her accomplishments are many and need not be enumerated. Indeed, it is impossible not to admire, to like, and to respect Lindy Boggs, as we are all beneficiaries of her advocacy.

However, I do want to highlight that she shared my commitment to this institution and a love of history. Lindy Boggs believed that a recorded history was important and helped Americans understand the institution of Congress and the House. She successfully worked to establish the Office of the Historian in the House, which was created to collect, preserve, and interpret the documents of the House for Congress, the public and the press. In addition, she chaired the Joint Committee on Bicentennial Arrangements. It is also noteworthy that she served on my Committee, the Committee on House Administration, before taking a seat on the Committee on Appropriations.